



# Foggy Bottom News

May 1997

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Volume 39, No. 7



## New GW Hospital Partner Answers Many Questions, Raises Others

By Michael Thomas

Michael Servais, Senior Vice President of Universal Health Services, Inc., the new corporate partner of GW Hospital, hosted a briefing for the Foggy Bottom Association board on April 8, to explain the plans of the new partnership for the hospital. UHS is the sudden replacement for the hospital's earlier partner.

Mr. Servais introduced John Hummer, currently the CEO of two UHS hospitals in New Orleans, who will serve as interim CEO at GW Hospital until a permanent manager is named. Mr. Servais and Mr. Hummer described the history and capabilities of UHS and the plans for GW Hospital, and answered many questions from the FBA board. While the presentation was very upbeat, several issues, relating primarily to the values assigned to the hospital's assets, and what documents and other information will be made public, were not answered to the board's full satisfaction.

### UHS Succeeds OrNda-Tenet

UHS and GWU announced on April 3 that they had signed a joint venture partnership agreement for the ownership and operation of the hospital, and had entered into a management agreement, effective immediately, for UHS to manage the hospital's operation. The partnership plans to apply for Certificate of Need (CON) approval at the earliest possible date, but no later than May 30. GW had broken off negotiations with Tenet Healthcare Corporation to form a similar partnership, because of a "lack of strategic

fit" with Tenet (who had just merged with OrNda, GW's earlier negotiating partner).

UHS, founded in 1978, is the third largest public hospital management company in the U.S. It owns and operates 68 facilities nationwide, including 18 full service acute care hospitals. Three additional general hospitals are under construction. UHS also operates three women's health centers similar to Columbia Hospital for Women. It owns and operates Columbia's Radiation Oncology Center in Foggy Bottom. GW Hospital will be the first full teaching hospital in the UHS system, although some facilities have teaching affiliations.

The contract with GWU requires UHS to deposit \$40 million in cash and a \$40 million letter of credit at closing. The remainder of an intended \$125 million total is to be provided over a ten-year period. The \$125 million is committed to renovating or replacing the hospital's physical plant and, according to Mr. Servais, is in addition to amounts required for operations, equipment, and enhancement of the hospital's "Centers of Emphasis" (cardiovascular disease, cancer research, emergency medicine, minimally invasive surgery, neurosurgery, and women's health). Current plans are to renovate the current hospital building, although a final decision concerning replacement with a new building will be made in the next three to six months. The new or renovated hospital will probably be certified for fewer than the current 501 beds.

*continued on page 3*

## GWU, FBA Testify On Hospital Takeover Bill

On April 23, representatives of George Washington University testified in opposition to a bill in the D.C. Council which would regulate takeovers of non-profit hospitals by for-profit companies. The bill, which was introduced by Councilmember Sandy Allen at the behest of Medlantic Healthcare Group, provides that documents and information relating to takeovers be put on the public record. It also calls for a hearing to be held to allow the Corporation Counsel to determine that appropriate standards are met in the handling of assets that were built up by means of public funding and tax forbearance.

GWU, which was represented by President Stephen Joel Trachtenberg, Dr. Allan B. Weingold, Vice President for

Medical Affairs and Charles K. Barber, Senior Counsel, took the position that the proposed review procedures were unnecessary, duplicative of a review conducted by the State Health Planning and Development Agency (SHPDA) under the Certificate of Need (CON) procedures, and intended to block the pending takeover of GW Hospital by Universal Health Services. The witness pointed out that Medlantic was unsuccessful in its efforts to take over GW Hospital, and had intended to close the hospital if it had succeeded. The cost and delay inherent in the added review, and the provision in the bill for a "give-back" of a fraction of the taxes that the hospital had not paid over the past five years, were

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## FOGGY BOTTOM ASSOCIATION MEETING

### Speakers:

**Richard C. Wright**  
Vice President (Development)  
Universal Health Services, Inc.  
**John Franklin Williams, M.D.**  
Medical Director, The George Washington Hospital,  
and Dean of Admissions,  
GW School of Medicine

**Monday, April 28, 1997**  
**Wyndham Bristol Hotel**  
**2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.**  
**7:30 p.m.**

*(Next Month's Meeting, Tuesday, May 27, 1997  
Speaker from Kennedy Center)*



## Celebration for Ellie Becker

by Chris Lamb



After 32 years at the National Drug Manufacturer's Association, Ellie Becker is retiring from her position as Membership Director. Ellie is a long time Foggy Bottom Historic District resident and, for as long as anyone can remember, has kept the community informed and entertained as editor of the Foggy Bottom News. She has also served on the Foggy Bottom Association Board, including President for the past two years.

To help celebrate this happy occasion and to thank Ellie for all her hard work on behalf of the community, a reception will be held in the lobby of the Wyndham Bristol Hotel (2430 Pennsylvania Avenue) on May 15, 1997. The reception will start at 6:30 pm and hors d'oeuvres will be served. Please stop by and wish Ellie good luck.

## BZA Denies GWU Health & Wellness Motion; Waives Year's Wait

At a hearing in early April, the D.C. Board of Zoning Adjustment denied GWU's most recent action concerning the proposed health, wellness and fitness center. GWU wants to build at 23rd and G Streets, and its original application was denied by the BZA in 1994 and the order of denial issued in February 1997.

The BZA, while agreeing with community organizations that the changes were too major for a reconsideration, denied that motion, but waived the requirement that an applicant wait a year before refiling an application in a case that has been denied.

The latest action was a motion for reconsideration and rehearing filed jointly by the university and St. Mary's Church, asking that the BZA grant their request which presented a changed building design and usage profile. They also stated that the opposition of the church had changed in recent months. The university also stated that because of that change and due to revisions in the plan, the case should be reheard rather than filed as a new application.

The Foggy Bottom-West End Advisory Neighborhood Commission passed a lengthy resolution opposing the motion for reconsideration. The Foggy Bottom Association also

sent a letter opposing the requested procedure as not proper under the circumstances. The Columbia Plaza Tenants Association also opposed the motion.

In its letter, the FBA reiterated that the BZA found that the building's "use is too intense for this location," as well as concerns about traffic, noise and other objectional aspects. The letter also stated that the affects of the proposed building are not confined to "the church and Square 42. The intensity of the use must be considered in the context of the larger Foggy Bottom community."

The ANC's resolution also pointed out the building's impacts go beyond the square involved. Included in the ANC's statement were the agreements the university has made with other occupants of Square 42. The resolution stated that "GWU has overcome opposition from the church and potential opposition from other property owners in Square 42 by means that include direct and indirect financial inducements. By the acquisition of many and the demolition of 15 townhouses in Square 43, off-campus, GWU claims that it has 'eliminat(ed) the conflict the Board found between these structures (to the south of Square 42) and the Center.' This action on the part of GWU indicates clearly the impact of the university's methods to eliminate the residential character of Foggy Bottom and remove additional property from the tax rolls."

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## Foggy Bottom News

The *Foggy Bottom News* is a publication of the Foggy Bottom Association. All editorial assistance is contributed on a volunteer basis by residents of the area.

Editor ..... Ellie Becker  
Ad Manager..... Steve Timlin  
Ad Billing ..... Ilona Melstrads

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**Questions . . .***continued from page 1***UHS to Hold 80% of New JV**

In return for its money, UHS will obtain an 80% interest in a joint venture partnership. The partnership will hold a 50-year lease, with five 5-year options, on the land, building, licenses, and other hospital assets. The partnership will be run by a board made up of three persons appointed by the University and three appointed by UHS. The operations of the hospital will be overseen by a 12-member board of trustees, seven of whom will be from the hospital's service area.

What was not disclosed, and may never be made public, is how the hospital was valued for purposes of this sale, and whether the University (and the people of the District) would receive full value under the terms of the contract. The value of the hospital has been built over the years in part by contributions, volunteers, and most importantly, exemption from all local property, income, and excise taxes. The

District's taxpayers have invested in it for 170 years. The \$125 million dollar "price" eventually being paid by UHS is not being paid to its current owner, but is being invested in additions to the hospital. The investment will increase the value of the business UHS will then largely own, and will control for 75 years. The question is, what if anything is being paid for the hospital as it now exists, and is that a fair value.

When asked, however, Mr. Servais said he did not know what the hospital's book value was, and did not know whether he could disclose it if he knew. He also said that it was difficult to segregate hospital figures from other University operations. He said that the hospital's revenues were approximately \$150 million annually, about one-tenth of UHS's current revenues. Ruth Jordan, director of public relations for the hospital, told the FBA board that the documents relating to the proposed sale would be made public as part of the Certificate of Need proceeding, "except as to proprietary

documents." She did not know what that exception would cover.

**Mergers Now Elicit Document Disclosure**

In the wake of the flood of recent takeovers of non-profit hospitals by for-profit companies, many communities have found that boards of non-profit hospitals have sold too cheaply, or diverted funds to inappropriate uses, or lost control of the hospital only to find that it is sold again a few years later. In the past several years, about half of the states have enacted statutes that require review of a proposed takeover, not just by the state's health authorities, but also by the chief legal officer, for valuation, structural and fiduciary duty issues. Such a law has been proposed in the D.C. Council by Council member Sandy Allen at the request of a disappointed suitor of GW and competitor of UHS, Medlantic Healthcare Group. It would require that all relevant documents be made public, that certain standards be met as to the effects of the sale, and that a public hearing be held on the issues. A hearing was scheduled on the bill for April 23 (see associated story).

Asked about UHS's position on the Allen disclosure bill, Mr. Servais said that he was not sure that UHS would testify, although he understood GW would. His own opinion was that the bill was an unnecessary duplication of the CON process and an attempt to throw a roadblock in the way of UHS by its competitor. He noted that Medlantic had intended to close GW Hospital if it had succeeded in purchasing it.

Mr. Servais spoke enthusiastically about the improvements he expected UHS to be able to make in the hospital's facilities and operations. The first priority was to enlarge and improve the emergency room, which he thought was an embarrassment. The surgery department was the second priority, with outpatient surgery and the women's health program next. He agreed with a questioner that it made little sense to have major women's health programs at both GW and Columbia, and hoped that UHS would be successful in competing for a takeover of that facility as well.

Mr. Servais noted that while only 5% of hospitals reviewed by the Joint Committee on Accreditation are awarded "Accreditation with Commendation," fully 40% of UHS facilities received that recognition. GW Hospital, in spite of its historically fine reputation, does not enjoy that distinction, and Mr. Servais has told the staff at the hospital that UHS intends that it will.

**M Street Bridge To Be Repaired**

Work is beginning on the redecking of the M Street bridge over Rock Creek Parkway. It was reported that the bridge, which runs between 26th Street in Foggy Bottom to 28th Street in Georgetown, will be under repair construction for about 18 months. The current four one-way lanes will be cut down to two lanes for the duration of the project.

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## D.C.'s Dave Clarke Succumbs to Brain Cancer



Sad news indeed was the passing of Council Chairman Dave Clarke, who died in March of brain cancer. Clarke had been ill for some time, spent some weeks in Georgetown and Johns Hopkins hospitals, but died at his home in Mount Pleasant. Clarke was an original member of the Council from the earliest time of home rule, and was widely praised for his stands and work on civil rights, gun control, and help to the poor. He is survived by his wife, Carole, and his son Jeffrey.

### What Type of Conditions Do Chiropractors Treat? Spring "Colds"

By the time winter is over and spring is on its way, many people's resistance is down. The normal strength and vigor of the body and all its organs can be weakened by lack of exercise during the winter months.

The way to help beat this seasonal malady is to increase your general resistance to disease and to lower susceptibility. Chiropractic is especially effective in increasing the body's resistance in regulating function and restoring proper balance of the body's processes, so that the common cold loses its force and more serious complications are avoided. Eating a well-balanced diet, exercise, rest and a properly functioning nervous system gives your body the best resistance.

Chiropractic has given the world a different and drugless concept of health, stressing the fact that the cause of many disease processes begins with the body's inability to adapt to its environment. The chiropractic approach to treating illness was not to look for the cure in drugs or chemicals, but to locate an area (tissue or organ) of the body which was receiving an improper nerve supply and therefore was not able to function properly. If chiropractic had not been different in its approach to health care, the profession would not have flourished and expanded into the largest drugless health care profession in the world. The difference in chiropractic's clinical approach has restored good health to millions of people many times after other methods have failed.



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## Emily's House

By Adelaide Kummer

In the District of Columbia the law allows no more than four cats per household. A generous ruling, you might say. But though she never formally challenged it, my friend Emily Cooper lived outside the law.

She believed that with cats as with antiques one could never have too many.

That's one of the reasons it was such a pleasure to visit her. Her house was mellow with old things, yet brimming with life.

As you entered the door of the brick-paved gallery you were greeted by flowers, iron garden furniture and cats.

As Emily welcomed you into her sunny south parlor, you were surrounded by antiques, old paintings and cats.

They glided to greet you or slunk sinuously away from you. They entwined themselves about your ankles, appeared, disappeared — never more than eight, I think, but certainly not four.

A cup of tea in their company was a meal with a

multitude. If there was cake with the tea some would try to examine it to see if it was to their taste. Of course they disdained it, but they liked to be in the midst of things and would often try to settle on the tea table.

Their desire to be at the center of things had finished off Emily's four-poster. They had taken to congregating on its canopy when she went to bed. But Emily told me there were so many of them and they were so lively that the canopy split. Suddenly Emily had a bedful of cats which she didn't mind at all. But she never got around to fixing the canopy; it hung in tatters above her pillows.

Emily called her cats "the kids" and each cat had a name. At teatime it was always "Down Fluffy! Don't hit Mama Dear! Peter Pumpkin, get off that mantel. I've put Miss Lily Pons right there in the window 'til she feels better, but Blackie keeps trying to sit in her place."

Miss Cooper's house, like my own, is downtown. Nowadays downtown includes heavy traffic, street people and crime. And Emily would let her cats out into the yard from which they would often disappear.

Thus she led a busy life just trying to find the strays. Since she thought that cats could hear her better when traffic was light, she often wandered the alley at night calling them.

Once, as she searched, several idle street people offered to help her. Like Emily, they looked under cars and shouted "Mama Dear!"

Emily found the cat and as she carried it to the back gate (she always carried them like babies) one of the men said, "Aren't you going to give us some money?"

"For our time," he said.

A quick, small, pretty woman in her late sixties, Emily enjoyed so many things associated with her house — Elizabeth Arden Bubble Baths,

*continued on page 8*

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## Takeover . . .

*continued from page 1*

said to be designed to thwart the needed renovation of the hospital by UHS.

The Foggy Bottom Association, represented by board member Michael Thomas, testified in favor of the disclosure and review portions of the bill. In the view of FBA, the bill addresses real gaps in the review provided for in the CON process. SHPDA does not look at the legal aspects of a proposed takeover, does not mandate protection of charitable assets or their continued availability for health care purposes, and does not look at effects beyond two years. Recent experiences in other states with such takeovers have exposed real problems when non-profit hospitals have not been fairly valued, or when the resulting entities have not been properly structured to guarantee continued service to the community of assets built up by tax forbearance. Many states have reacted by passing legislation similar to that being considered here. The bill remains under consideration.

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## Foggy Bottom Folks

One sixth of the FBA Executive Board were written up in the April issue of *By George*. **Olga Corey** was the subject of Jane Lingo's Foggy Bottom Friends column, and the issue also included a long article on GWU's Green University, and FBA Membership Director **Polly Berman** is an important part of that project.

For several months an ad for pastoral counseling has appeared in the *FBNews*. The counselor is named **Maryrita Wieners**, and in addition to being happy to run her ad we recall all her hard work as a staff member at Holy Trinity Church in Georgetown several years ago. Came to admire how she handled a demanding job at the church; sure must have started her in the right direction for helping others.

A young man named **Alexander Malson**, although not a resident of Foggy Bottom, spends a good bunch of his time here. He is ten years old and a chorister with the Men's and Boys' Choir at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. His duties there include singing a weekly Evensong and other special services. And not long ago he appeared at "our little neighborhood theater," the Kennedy Center, in a boy soprano role with the National Symphony under the direction of Leonard Slatkin.

The Foggy Bottom Diner

had some nice words to say about the new restaurant, Zuki Moon Noodles. Not long afterward the restaurant was featured in the Washington Times' restaurant review column as well. The critic, Alexandra Fields Collin, wrote a long and complimentary article, and owners **Mary Richter** and **Abdou Sakam** are most assuredly pleased. By the way, she reported that Zuki means "lover of" in Japanese; now it makes sense.

Yet another person at the School Without Walls has been singled out for an honor. This time it is **Emily J. Crandall**, the principal of the senior high school, who was named a Woman of Distinction for her accomplishments and leadership role at the school. The award came from the D.C. Branch of the Soroptimist International group.

A welcome to the wonderful world of retirement for **Mary Lou Hennessey**, longtime FBA member who lives on K Street. Mary Lou left the Office of Personnel Management in January and reportedly has been enjoying life since. Mary Lou is active in the Friends of the West End Library, a hard-working group which helps us all.

**Cathy Miller**, who runs Natural Day Care at St. Paul's Church, reported that the D.C. parks people came to the

26th Street park to do some sprucing up for the new season. Among the improvements made were a batch of new sand for the sandbox and, importantly, a tarpaulin to cover the sand when the box is not in use. If the sandbox is not covered after use, it will again become contaminated by dogs and cats, and again too unsanitary for children to use. Please, please, she asks, be sure the tarp is used as it is intended to protect the sandbox for children's use.

**C. William Tayler**, an attorney who lives in the Westbridge on Pennsylvania Avenue, recently received recognition for service to a scholarship foundation. Tayler has served on the Board and the planning and lecture series committees of the Frederick B. Abramson Memorial Foundation. The foundation raises funds to give college scholarships to graduating D.C. public high school seniors and grants to law school graduates who work in public interest law.

Another lovely Foggy Bottom lady was featured in a recent issue of *By George*. **Hazel Hanback** is truly one of our longest neighborhood residents. Her great grandfather owned a home located on the site of the current State Department. She now lives on F Street, held a fascinating array of government jobs, and received awards from the Navy, Department of Defense, and from her alma maters, Central High School and GWU. A story is related in the *By George* piece, describing a plan put forth by President Lyndon Johnson to build an enclave for black diplomats near 22nd and M Streets. She opposed it and it was never built.

There is a new business owner in the area; **Angi Martin** has purchased the former George II Hair Salon at Potomac Plaza. The shop has been renamed Potomac Plaza Hair Design, and is open Monday through Saturday. The phone is 338-3949. Styling is available for men and women.

## How Are You Dealing With Stress?

The ways people deal with stress are varied. To help change a stressful frame of mind into a calm, peaceful one, here are some tips:

— **Learn to relax.** Just 20 minutes of uninterrupted relaxation (no TV, please!), twice a day, can make you feel better all day. Meditation, prayer, self-hypnosis—even daydreaming—are examples of proven relaxation techniques.

— **Balance your daily activities** by mixing the right amount of exercise, nutritious food, relaxation, and sleep. Eliminate (or restrict) the amount of caffeine in your diet. Take care of yourself!

— **Become more flexible; relax your standards.** Some things are worth *not* doing perfectly and others can wait until tomorrow!

— **Don't put up with things that don't work right!** Fix that toaster that always burns your toast, or get a new one!

— **Everyday, do at least one thing you really enjoy.**

— **Have a forgiving view of events and people.** Accept the fact that we live in an imperfect world, and for every one thing that goes wrong there are probably 10 or 50 or 100 blessings. So look for the

"silver lining."

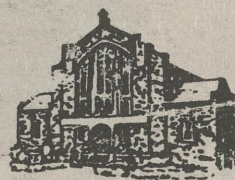
— To help you start your relaxation program today, here are two easy-to-do exercises that can really make a difference.

1. **Deep Muscle Relaxation** — Sit or lie down and close your eyes. Then, tense your facial muscles (purse your lips, squeeze your forehead, etc.); hold for five seconds then relax. Now move on to the neck and shoulders—tense, hold, relax. Keep on doing this for all the major muscle groups (arms, back, abdominals, hips, legs, feet). The whole process takes about 15 minutes—and when you're done, your muscle tension will have drained away and you'll feel revived and refreshed.

2. **Abdominal Breathing** — Clear the stale air from your lungs by exhaling slowly, through your mouth, until your lungs feel completely empty. Then inhale, through your nose, until you feel your abdomen rise. Hold for five seconds, then exhale and begin the cycle again. Repeat four to five times. Deep, abdominal breathing takes only a few seconds—so stop and "take a breather" whenever you feel tense.

### Western Presbyterian Church 2401 Virginia Avenue, N.W. 835-8383

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SUNDAY MASSES

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1:00 PM with Guitar and Cantor  
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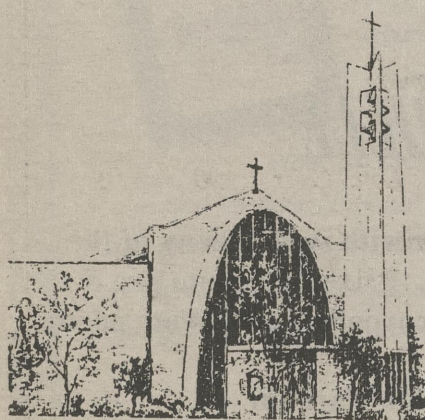
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## The Becker Beat



The debate on President Clinton's plan for the District goes on and on. The two sides to most of the proposals are still being heard, but one worries me. It is the provision which would give the Economic Development Corporation the right of eminent domain. Does that bother you? It brings forth memories of the Federal highway projects which almost decimated our city years ago. And then there's Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House, done with no notice to D.C. citizens and the D.C. government, etc., etc. And as usual, did we or will we get any say in the matter?

### GWU Again Offers Children's Summer Camp

GWU is again offering four one-week summer sports camp sessions for children ages 7-12 from July 7 to August 1. The program includes the fundamentals of basketball, soccer, swimming, football, baseball, volleyball and lacrosse. Call Aubrey Jones, 202-994-7546 for information on this popular summer program.

## Major Happenings at St. Stephen's

By Mary Healy

Mark your calendars now. Come one, come all. These are important Foggy Bottom community events.

### Father Sheehan to Retire to Ireland

In early June, the Reverend Thomas J. Sheehan, Pastor of St. Stephen Martyr Church, is retiring. Father Sheehan came to the United States from Ireland immediately after his ordination 44 years ago. Of these, 20 years have been spent as Pastor of our St. Stephen's, one of the oldest churches in Washington, D.C.

Father Sheehan will be returning to his former home in Cork, Ireland. On June 8, prior to his departure, a Farewell Reception will be held following the 11:30 Mass. It will be an opportunity for parishioners and the many friends Father Sheehan has made throughout Washington to wish him Godspeed.

### Unique Collection of Items to be Sold

On May 10 and 11, there will be a public sale (in the church hall) of Father Sheehan's very valuable and unique collection of antique artifacts. His collection includes many early 20th century grandfather clocks, wall and mantel clocks (German,

French, English and American origin), crystal, china, prints, original paintings, statues and many other valuable items. All are welcome to participate in the sale. Father Sheehan probably will be seen wandering around saying goodbye to many of his prized possessions.

### 130th Anniversary Celebration

On May 25 at 11:30 a.m. St. Stephen Martyr Church will celebrate its 130 anniversary. For all these years St. Stephen's has been a community pillar, serving not only its parishioners but friends of all faiths, as well as visitors to the nation's capital from all over the world.

His Eminence Cardinal James A. Hickey will celebrate the Anniversary Mass, with all the priests of the parish concelebrating. The Cardinal and concelebrants will participate in a reception immediately after the Mass. All are welcome.

## Foggy Bottom Diner

By James Patterson

**America's Best Diner**, 2601 Virginia Avenue, offers a crowd-pleasing menu and a crowd-pleasing 1950s environment. The extensive menu offers something for every taste. Among the 11 appetizers are hot chicken wings with bleu cheese and celery, \$4.25, and Maryland crab cakes, \$6.79. Appetizers also include a selection of soups, salads and chili. Mom's chicken noodle soup and Chicago-style chili are recommended.

Entrees range in price from \$6.99 for mom's meatloaf dinner to ribeye and New York strip steaks, \$12.99. The meatloaf dinner served with side orders of mashed potatoes and roasted vegetables is especially good. If you prefer pasta, you can select from traditional spaghetti and meatballs, \$6.99, to pasta primavera, \$6.59, and fettucini alfredo, \$6.59.

If hamburger is what you want you can select from 7 different burgers including the Incredible Hubba Burger, \$7.99, and the Southwest burger. Hot open-face sandwiches such as the traditional reuben, \$6.59, and Chicago-style hotdogs are also on the menu. For dessert there are several ice cream specialties in addition to pies. The milk shakes and malts are delicious.

The decor of **America's Best Diner** is also a treat. Neon lights highlight photographs from the '50s and '60s and each table has a compact disc player with musical selections from the '50s through the mid '70s. There are also overhead televisions for the serious fan of CNN or sports.

Affordable prices. Lively atmosphere. Convenient location. **America's Best Diner** has them all. Find out for yourself and tell them you read about them in *The Foggy Bottom News*.

## Neighborhood Datebook

**Monday, April 28:** Foggy Bottom Association meeting, featuring speakers on the latest merger plans for the GWU hospital. Wyndham Bristol Hotel, 2430 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. 7:30 p.m.

**Thursday, May 1:** "Curious George," a program for young audiences, presented by Theatreworks/USA. Call 202-994-1500 for information. Lisner Auditorium, 730 21st Street, N.W. 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

*continued on page 7*

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## Bylaws Amendment up for Vote at May Meeting

The FBA Executive Board is recommending a bylaws amendment to allow for a reduced amount for fulltime college students. The language to be voted on at the May 27 meeting is presented below.

Article VIII of the Bylaws requires that notice of a proposed amendment must either be mailed to each member or appear in an issue of the newspaper not less than 15 days before the meeting of the members at which the amendment is to be taken up. In ad-

dition, the proposed amendment must be announced at the meeting prior to the meeting at which the amendment is taken up. Article VII, Section 3 requires that if notice is given in the newspaper, it must appear on the first page.

Section 1 of Article II of the Bylaws is amended to add the following sentence:

"Any person who subscribes to the objectives of the FBA and who lives in the area described in Section 3 of Article One of these Bylaws

while attending college or university in a fulltime degree program may become a member of the FBA by payment of dues."

Section 3 of Article II of the Bylaws is amended to add the following sentence:

"The Executive Board may provide for membership dues for full-time college students in a lesser amount than for other members.

The Board is recommending student dues be \$5.00 per year. Regular members pay \$10.00

## Neighborhood Datebook . . .

*continued from page 6*

**Thursday, May 1-Thursday, May 22:** GWU's M.F.A. Spring Thesis Candidate Show. Call 202-994-1525 for information. Dimock Gallery, 730 21st Street, N.W. 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and special hours in conjunction with certain performances at Lisner Auditorium.

**Sunday, May 4:** Concert by the U.S. Marine Chamber Orchestra. Featured will be Stravinsky's Symphonies of Wind Instruments, Haydn's Symphony No. 95 in C minor, Prokofiev's Violin Concerto No. 2 in G minor, and Ravel's Suite from Mother Goose. National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W. Call 202-334-2436 for information. 2:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, May 6:** "Phantom of the Opera," a program for young audiences, presented by Theatreworks/USA. Call 202-994-1500 for information. Lisner Auditorium, 730 21st Street, N.W. 10:30 a.m.

**Saturday-Sunday, May 10-11:** Public sale of antique clocks and other items of Father Thomas Sheehan of St. Stephen Martyr Church (see article elsewhere). St. Stephen's church hall, 25th & Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. (enter on 25th Street).

**Sunday, May 11:** Concert by the U.S. Marine Chamber Orchestra. Featured will be Beethoven's Septet in E-flat, Strauss's Duet-Concertino for Clarinet and Bassoon and Suite from Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme. National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W. Call 202-334-2436 for information. 2:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, May 13:** "Aesop's Fables," a program for young audiences, presented by Theatreworks/USA. Call 202-994-1500 for information. Lisner Auditorium, 730 21st Street, N.W. 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

**Sunday, May 18:** Concert by the U.S. Marine Chamber Orchestra. Featured will be Mozart's Overture to The Abduction from the Seraglio, Hummel's Trumpet Concerto in E-flat, Handel's Suite No. 2 in D (Water Music), and Mozart's Symphony No. 36 in C (Linz). National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W. Call 202-334-2436 for information. 2:00 p.m.

**Monday, May 19:** Concert by United Church Choir and members of the Washington Sangerbund and the Choir of the German School of Washington. Featured will be music of Buxtehude, Faure, and Alessandro Scarlatti. Stephen Ackert, music director of United Church will conduct. United Church, 1920 G Street, N.W. Call 202-331-1495 for information. 4:00 p.m.

**Sunday, May 25:** Celebration, 130th Anniversary of St. Stephen Martyr Church, with Mass celebrated by Cardinal James Hickey and parish priests. St. Stephen Martyr Church, 25th & Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. 11:30 a.m.

**Sunday, May 25:** Concert by the U.S. Marine Chamber Orchestra. Featured will be Chadwick's Serenade for Strings, Piston's Capriccio for Harp and String Orchestra, Fine's Serious Song—A Lament for String Orchestra; and Diamond's Rounds for String Orchestra. National Academy of Sciences, 2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W. Call 202-334-2436 for information. 2:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, May 27:** "Velveteen Rabbit," a program for young audiences, presented by Theatreworks/USA. Call 202-994-1500 for information. Lisner Auditorium, 730 21st Street, N.W. 10:30 a.m.

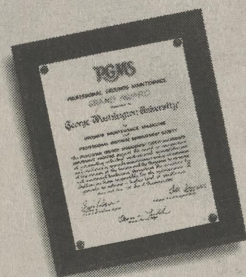
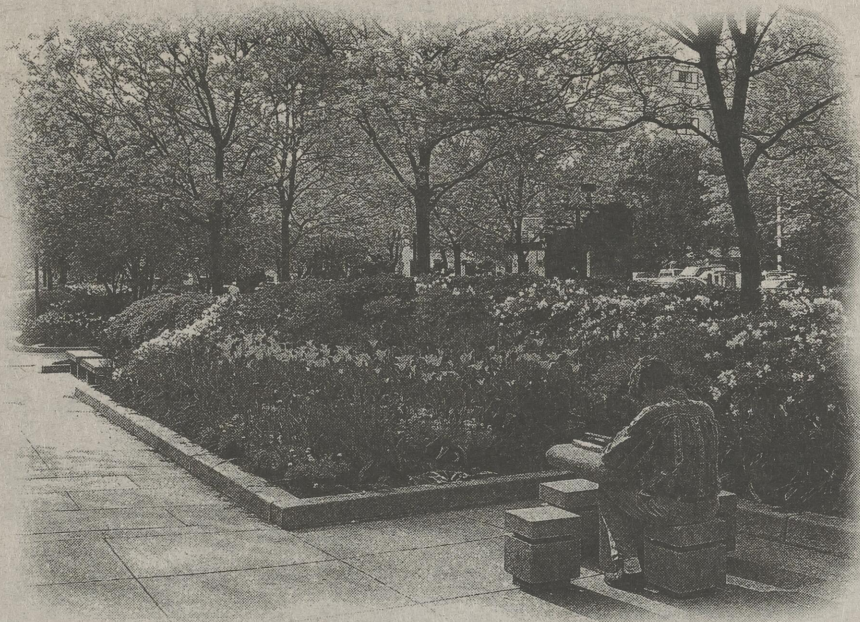
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Photo by J. R. Black



## Emily's House . . .

*continued from page 4*

good friends, good bourbon, and crab meat from Cannon's for Friday night parties with "the kids."

One night when I called, the phone rang a number of times before she answered.

"Emily, did I disturb you?" I asked.

"Oh no," she replied. "I was just sitting in the yard, looking at the moon and eating ice cream."

Her big back yard was on higher ground than the house and to reach it you climbed a flight of stone steps from an open area beyond the gallery. There was a sundial that counted "only sunny hours," old rose bushes, and a thicket of lilacs against the back fence. On bright, blowy days her wash would snap jauntily from a clothesline, reminding tenants in nearby apartments of many a Monday past.

The house had belonged to her aunt and uncle and Emily had come there first as a little girl after her parents died. She always remembered how warmly her relatives had welcomed her.

When an new cat joined the group and the others rebuffed it, Emily spoke to them seriously. A former Sunday School teacher, she would point out that the Lord had led them all to the house just as he had led her there so many years before. Therefore, she would tell them, they must all dwell there together peaceably.

She talked of willing the house to the National Trust for Historic Preservation so long as it would let the cats stay and take care of them.

Emily often sat in a rocking chair with Fluffy on her lap. The cat was young, apricot-colored and fluffy as her name implied and Emily maintained she liked to be sung to. Emily would cuddle her and sing "Rockabye Baby."

When a developer bought the property to the west of hers, she fought hard to make sure the construction did not impinge on her yard. She argued with the builder about the condition of her tall magnolia tree which she felt was being injured by building activities. She even inveigled that tough, modern businessman to build her a brick wall to replace a wood fence damaged in the course of

construction.

As the building neared completion, Emily discovered that Fluffy was missing.

She questioned neighbors. She searched the neighborhood. At night, from my rear bedroom window I could hear her calling the cat.

After several days she told me she thought she heard Fluffy crying from the penthouse of the unfinished building.

"I've got to go up there and get her," Emily said.

"But Emily," I protested, "it's not finished. It could be dangerous. Ask the construction men to find her."

"No," said Emily, "she's so shy. She wouldn't come out for them. And she's up there

somewhere. I know it."

Emily told me that a group of neighbors stood by as she negotiated with the hard-hats. Finally it was agreed they would permit her to go up to an area just below the unfinished penthouse. It was a sunny day with very little breeze as Emily climbed the rough stairs under the eye of the hard-hats. She began calling Fluffy. No luck after the first few calls but Emily persisted. Was there the faintest miaow in answer?

Emily thought so.

She sang "Rockabye Baby" and out came Fluffy from the penthouse.

Down she climbed along a wooden beam.

Into Miss Cooper's arms she bounded.

Then what a triumphal progress! Emily walked down the stairs, laughing and weeping, her baby clutched to her breast. Her audience looked on amazed or laughing; one even cheering, "Right on, old girl!"

Some years have passed since Emily's triumph. She and "the kids" are gone.

A developer bought her property. The neighborhood fought his plans to demolish the house. As a result, part of its structure remains, as well as that of its sister house next door. They were designated the two oldest houses in Foggy Bottom.

The property changed hands several times more before new construction began last year.

Now, in this spring of 1997

fine new housing units are situated on the lots where once the Cooper houses stood alone.

As the new work was starting, I talked by chance to Claude Keener, Jr., of the Keener Management Company which is building the new housing. He was concerned about birds which were nesting in one of the chimneys and had called the Animal Rescue League about them. He wanted them removed to a safe place. He was also aware that a group of feral cats was occupying an area in the Cooper foundation.

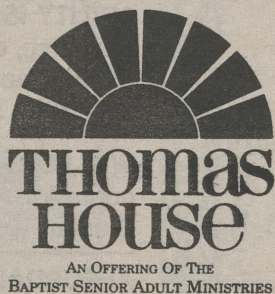
Maybe I am unduly optimistic but his perceptions and sensitivity suggested to me that the joyous spirit of Emily and "the kids" might not be far from the new houses.

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